

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video production switcher comprising:
  - a main circuit board,
  - at least one multi-level effects generator having at least two keyers and a video signal mixer,
    - a digital video processing unit integrally connected with said main circuit board and electrically connected to each of said at least two keyers, wherein said digital video processor unit is operable to generate at least a two-dimensional video effect and one or more intermediate signals can be accessed.
2. The switcher of claim 1, further comprising a digital video effects send that allows a selected portion of a layered image to be routed to an external digital video effects unit for editing.
3. The switcher of claim 1, wherein the video signal mixer is capable of being cascaded.
4. The switcher of claim 1, wherein the at least one multi-level effects generator is capable of being cascaded.
5. A video switcher comprising:
  - a main circuit board,
  - at least one multi-level effects generator having at least two keyers and a video signal mixer,
    - a digital video processing unit integrally connected with said main circuit board and electrically connected to each of said at least two keyers, wherein said digital video processor unit is operable to generate at least a two-dimensional video effects, and
    - a switcher control panel, the switcher control panel allowing a video signal from which a desired key will be generated to be first routed through the digital video processing unit.
6. The switcher of claim 5, wherein the video signal is compressed.

7. The switcher of claim 5, wherein the video signal is positioned at a specified location with a specified size.
8. The switcher control panel of claim 5, further comprising a display that displays information about one or more of operational functions and switcher configuration.
9. The switcher control panel of claim 8, wherein a horizontal position, a vertical position and a size of an over the shoulder box are displayed.